

OUR RELATIONS WITH ENGLAND—THE RIGHT OF SEARCH.

In the foreign news which we published last week, there was an item of news which must have no unimportant bearing on the negotiations which will shortly be had between the United States and Great Britain, intended to settle a half a dozen subjects of dispute now existing between the two countries, and for which, the reader may be aware, a special minister from England is daily expected at Washington. We allude to the refusal, by the French Chambers, to ratify the treaty lately entered into between England and France, for the suppression of the slave trade, which treaty conceded to the British Government the right to search all vessels that they might suspect to be slave ships. The British Government had made treaties with the principal powers of Europe upon this subject, and all had agreed to yield her this privilege, viz that of searching the vessels of their respective nations, when found in certain latitudes, if supposed to be engaged in the slave trade. France, alone, has refused to make valid the treaty on her part.

It is also known to all, that a voluminous correspondence has been carried on between the governments of the U. S. and England, upon this very subject for some years past, and if memory serve us aright, Mr. Stevenson was twitted a little by the British Secretary for taking so high a stand as to refuse Great Britain the right of search while the other great powers of Europe had willingly yielded it to her. The British government has been busy in presenting a false issue before Europe upon this matter, and expected to be sustained in its arrogant claim by the moral influence of the governments of the old world in opposition to the voice of republican America, thus holding out the idea that whilst the monarchies of Europe were willing to give their aid in suppressing the slave trade, we, in America, with freedom always in our mouths, were throwing obstacles in the way of philanthropy, if not desiring to favor the traffic.

But under this cloak of philanthropy, there was concealed another object, which the argument of government of England has ever been aiming at, and which received its strongest check from this country in the last war, her attempt to grasp at universal dominion of the seas. This is the ulterior aim of John Bull in his policy of suppressing the slave trade, and his whole country will now have cause to thank Mr. Cass, our Minister to France, for his efforts to enlighten the French government upon the true nature of the dispute between us and the British on this subject. Whilst the matter was before the Chambers, Mr. Cass published a pamphlet containing a history of the entire affair, and informed the French government what the design and aim of England was, and it is to the able manner in which he treated the subject, that is to be ascribed in a great measure, the refusal of the French Chambers to ratify the treaty. In all probability, this circumstance will have an effect upon the instructions of Lord Ashburton, and deprive them of a good deal of the popular tone which the English know so well how to assume, in their diplomatic intercourse.

To permit the British or any foreign government to search our merchant vessels on the high seas, is what the people of the United States would never consent to, even if there existed the greatest apparent necessity; because it cannot be doubted that the power would be most grossly abused, and in a short time, our vessels would scarcely be allowed to navigate the ocean except by permission of the British vessels of war, and would be subjected to the most provoking annoyances on the part of every insolent British Lieutenant in command of their small armed ships. Several cases of this kind have come to light through the correspondence of Mr. Stevenson, published a short time since. Let us but grant this right of search, and we should very soon find that England would again set up her former, but long since exploded right to impress our seamen for the purpose of manning her mammoth Navy. This, one of the prime causes of the late war, should be sufficient warning to the U. S. never to succumb to so unwarrantable a pretension on the part of Great Britain.

There is another late movement of the British government, which has a vast deal of their usual modesty in it, and this is their line of West India steamships passing from port to port in the United States, and carrying our mails and passengers for us! The least that should have been done by our government, we think, was to thank them for their kindness and enterprise, and to have told them that we could do these things ourselves. When it is considered that these companies have an annuity from the British government, that the stipulations upon which this annuity is granted are, that they shall be commanded by officers of the British Navy, that upon a war between England and any other country, these ships are to be at the service of the British government, can any lover of his country doubt the course which should be pursued by the United States? We think not. How long it would require for the commanders (all scoundrel men) of these "royal mail steamships" to become acquainted with all our harbors, soundings and fortifications, each one can answer for himself upon very little reflection.

There are other important subjects which will claim the serious consideration of the two governments, to wit: the north eastern boundary, the north western boundary, the right of search, the Creole case, and a "defining of relations" so as to put a stop, in future, to any more McLeod farces. These questions, two of which will hardly be negotiated upon any more, are grave in their nature, and we sincerely trust they may be satisfactorily adjusted. But we should not, at the same time, from a desire to preserve peace, make any concessions which will place our people and government in a position derogatory to the high character now held by them in the eyes of the world, and which we humbly hope they shall always retain.

FROM RICHMOND.

Both branches of the Legislature adopted a resolution to adjourn yesterday, the 23d instant.

The bill requiring a resumption of specie payments by the Banks of this State on the 1st of November next, passed the House of Delegates on Thursday last, by a vote of 72 to 42. An amendment was added to the bill, that in case of a resumption by the Maryland and Pennsylvania Banks, the Virginia Banks should resume in 60 days thereafter. This will make the commencement of specie payments the 1st of July next. The bill allows the Banks to issue small notes till January next, redeemable in specie. They are also required to keep a journal of their transactions open for public inspection. The Directors are to receive compensation, and have no power to contract a loan of any Bank of which they are Directors.

The Senate was engaged, on Friday and Saturday last, in the consideration of the bill, but nothing definite was done.

The other business before the Legislature is not of much importance.

FOURD.—The body of Miss CATHERINE EVANS, who was drowned in the Openick creek, some weeks since, was found on Sunday the 6th instant, a few hundred yards below the place where she sank. She was found entangled in the branches of a fallen tree in the water.

MR. CLAY.

This distinguished personage will retire from the Senate, in a few days. It is contemplated by his friends in Congress, conjointly with the citizens of Washington, to give him a public Ball before his departure from the city.

THE RETIREMENT OF HENRY CLAY.

The time approaches when Mr. Clay will retire forever from the Legislative halls of the nation, where his voice has been heard above thirty-five years, and always in the support of the liberties, the honor, and the interests of the people of the United States. Few men have run a more brilliant, more honorable, or a more useful legislative career in any country; no one, certainly, in this, than Mr. Clay; and it must be most gratifying to him now he is about to retire from the great theatre of his labors and usefulness to witness the kind and friendly feeling which even his political opponents now manifest towards him, and to hear of the honorable and generous feelings they bear to his worth, his manliness, his splendid talents and his noble nature. One of the most prominent men of the opposition party in the Senate, perhaps the most prominent man, dining with a friend a few days ago, remarked of Mr. Clay, that he had been a subject of conversation, that he had been in Congress with him for a great many years—that he was a member of the House of Representatives when Mr. Clay was the speaker and leader of that body, and, said the distinguished Senator, lying down his knife and fork, and becoming eloquent as he warmed up with the subject, "he was then the most splendid man I ever beheld, and such a speaker and such a leader as no legislative body ever saw in this country, and I believe I might say in any country; no man can know him and not admire and love him, he has so noble and generous a nature, and is so many and honorable in all his doings." I give the words as near as I can recollect them, as they were repeated to me. Such is the testimony of a political opponent; can he be called flattery? No, it is but the honest expression of a generous and elevated nature—of a man who has not only done justice even to an opponent, and who can appreciate and admire noble qualities, though their possessor be his antagonist. A public dinner will be given to Mr. Clay by the Whig members of Congress previous to his departure; it will indeed be "a feast of reason and a flow of soul."

CONGRESS.

In the Senate, Mr. Clay's resolutions in relation to the tariff, and the expenditures of the government, are still under discussion. The debate on the tariff has brought out several of the first speakers in the Senate, and much new light upon the state of the country, its commerce, its finances, and its wants—has resulted from the consideration of these resolutions, altogether a proof that the impracticable notions of many of our public men are becoming modified to a degree, which indicates a disposition to look at things as they really are. Messrs. Evans, of Maine, and Simmonds, of Rhode Island, made most excellent speeches, and completely demolished Mr. Calhoun and his double-fined abstractions upon the subject of protecting our domestic industry. Their speeches should be published and circulated in all parts of the country, that the people might see who are their veritable friends amongst those in high places.

The House of Representatives is engaged in the consideration of Retrenchment in the expenses of government, besides a variety of miscellaneous business.

MR. SCOTT'S SPEECH.

Next week, we shall lay before our readers the excellent speech of Mr. Scott, of Fauquier, upon the subject of receiving the State's share of the Land Fund, which the *interceptible* Locofoco of the Senate, by a tie vote, have rejected. There is much other matter in the speech, which will commend itself to the candid reader. The argument of the Lococo, that it would corrupt us, if we received this fund, is very amusing. These patriots have become very pure, of late days, indeed.

The issue made by the Enquirer for the elections this Spring, is the rejection of the Land Fund, and we hope it will be borne in mind by the people. Should the Legislature have a majority in the Legislature next winter, they have threatened to use every effort to bring about a repeal of the Distribution Law, and it behooves our friends in every quarter of the State to be wide awake.

FREDERICK COUNTY.

The Whigs of Frederick are preparing for the coming contest, and have called a meeting at Winchester on the 4th of next month to nominate candidates for the Legislature.

The Locos have re-nominated Messrs. Wood and Bryan for re-election, and those gentlemen have accepted the nomination.

SCOTTSDALE BANK.

The reader may recollect that a few weeks since, the House of Delegates passed a bill incorporating a Bank in the town of Scottsville, in Albemarle county. On the 15th, it came up for consideration in the Senate, and failed to become a law, by a vote of 10 to 10. Its indefinite postponement was moved by Mr. Bouldin, and passed by the vote above stated.

The proprietor of a late Locofoco paper in Leesburg, Va., styled the "Spirit of Democracy," offers his materials, &c. for sale in the Richmond Enquirer, and gives as a reason, that the Locos of his region have evinced a disposition to amalgamate with the Whigs, and consequently a Lococo newspaper is misplaced. Now one hardly knows whether to take this as an exposition of the weakness of the Loudoun Locos, or as a compliment to them in discovering the error of their way, and "amalgamating" themselves with our friends, it really have joined the Whig ranks. The latter hypothesis is certainly the most natural of the two.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTION.

The election in New Hampshire for State officers took place on Tuesday the 8th instant. The Locos, as was expected, have made a clean sweep of the State. Returns have been received from 138 towns, the aggregate vote in which was as follows: Hubbard, (Locofoco) 19,400; Stevens, 9,345; White, 4,412; Holt, 1,939. The majority for Hubbard, over all others is 3,674.

The Opposition candidates have been elected from all the senatorial districts but two, and one of these is as yet uncertain. In the House, the Opposition majority will be greater than it was last year.

By subsequent accounts, we see it stated that all the returns are in but 16 towns, which give Hubbard a majority of 5,365. The towns to be heard from, gave last year a majority to the Locofoco of 820. Hubbard will probably have 6,000 majority over all his opponents.

THE RAIL ROAD ORDERS.

In consequence of the heavy discount at which the Rail Road notes are selling, the City Council of Baltimore a few days since passed an ordinance to decline receiving them in future for taxes and dues of the City, and on Monday last, the Board of Directors of the Rail Road Company took a similar step, and have resolved, henceforward, to receive for freight, &c. only such funds as are current in Baltimore, or at the existing rates of discount.

The following are the resolutions of the Rail Road Company on the subject:

Whereas, for the purpose of sustaining the intrinsic and actual value of the orders of this company, heretofore issued upon the Stock recently sold from the City of Baltimore in payment of its subscription of \$3,000,000, this company have heretofore received them in payment of tolls for travel and transportation, and have been willing to continue to receive them so long as it was desirable to the Public Authorities and the community that they should be used as a currency, and so long as their receipt by the use of them, to meet their obligations to persons in their employment and to their stockholders; And whereas, the recent action of the Legislature of Maryland, and the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, together with circumstances not associated by this company and wholly beyond their control, have entirely deprived these orders of their character or utility as a currency, and so rendered it impracticable for the company to continue to receive them, and at the same time to meet their obligations, or to carry on even the daily operations of their road;

And whereas, it is not believed that any action on the part of the company could give to the orders the currency of which they have been deprived, or even give them greater value than would otherwise belong to them—Therefore,

Resolved, That from and after this day, nothing will be received for tolls for travel and transportation on the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road, and the Washington Branch thereof, but the full current value of money, or other funds at rates equivalent thereto.

The Alexandria Gazette states that a fine business was done at several of the fisheries last week. Several loads of Shad were brought to that place and sold during the week, at \$7 per hundred.

STATISTICAL FACTS—MARRIAGES.

In glancing over the census tables, for Virginia, the other day, we were surprised to find that there is a majority of 1,478 white males in the State. Eastern Virginia has 182,074 white males, and 127,324 white females—being 5,250 in favor of the ladies; while Western Virginia has 169,149 males, and 162,421 females—showing a majority of 6,728 against them.

Our impression has always been that emigration carries off such a number of males to the South and West, that there would be a large majority of females in the State; and hence our surprise at discovering our error. The Virginia ladies do not emigrate in numbers equal to the men; and whether males compose a majority of births, in the State, is a question which has a bearing on the ascertainment of the cause of this disparity. If the male and female births be the same, the difference, now existing, must be produced by deaths among the females—and should this be so, it would be worth the pains to discover what are the causes. Are we to account for the difference, in climate, or diet, or in slavery to those injunctions of fashion which hurry (in the opinion of physicians) thousands of females to the grave, yearly? Who will answer.

Our bachelor friends have the power in this whole Congressional District for its white population stands 24,779 males to 22,106 females. And they have a majority in every county except Clarke—as follows: Frederick, 5,579 males—5,540 females; Clarke, 1,420 males—1,447 females; Jefferson, 4,391 males—4,342 females; Berkeley, 4,631 males—4,129 females; Morgan, 2,462 males—1,651 females; and Hampshire, 5,706 males—4,997 females.

The retention of power in the Legislature has always been a favorite measure with the eastern portion of the State; and we recommend to our western brethren—as one way to divest them of it—to go over the Ridge and take wives from among them! There is a scarcity of the "gentle sex" on this side of the mountain—and eastern Virginia may readily reap its overplus, to make up the deficit in the western portion of the State. We don't recommend the celebrated act of the old Romans to our friends—but as illustrative of an example might, we are free to confess, palliate the offense, were the necessity as great as was that of the subjects of Romulus! The effect of this bold measure was, that the Sabines conceded to their sons-in-law and children what would never have been granted to an independent power—unconnected with them by treaty, or matrimonial alliances; and, if our recommendation should be adopted, it may be, that eastern Virginia will yield up some-in-law and connections of the west, an equal participation in the State councils, which is now, most unjustly and strenuously withheld.

TEMPORA MUTANTUR, &c.—The Richmond Enquirer is at a loss for language sufficiently strong to convey an adequate idea of its loathing and abhorrence of the Land Distribution law; and yet it was in ecstasies at the proposition of such a law by Mr. McLane, when he was Secretary of the Treasury under Gen. Jackson.

The Enquirer, it is true, had some slight doubts about its constitutionality; but these being removed, this mode of distribution was all that the Enquirer could desire; and this was its language in commendation of it—(we are indebted to the Lynchburg Virginian for the reminiscence):

"What might not Virginia do with an annual dividend of \$800,000, or even half of it? How many miles of road might she not complete? How many schools establish? How many of her degraded population might she not transport to the shores of Africa? Putting aside, however, all the arguments of self-interest and viewing the question alone as between the United States and the States where the lands are situated, we are prompted to acquiesce in the proposition of the Secretary, and very much for the reason which he assigns, that all cause of difficulty with the General Government on the subject would be removed." And again, said the Enquirer, "We approve, as far as we are advised, of Mr. McLane's suggestion."

All that the Enquirer then said and approved it has now unsaid and disapproved; and simply because the proposition was then broached by one political party, and it is now adopted by another political party. What is such a man's opinion of any public measure to be valued at?—*Norfolk Herald.*

NOMINATIONS.—We perceive that the good folks of some part of Mississippi have fouled the name of Martin Van Buren for the Presidency, and of Richard M. Johnson for his vice.

It strikes us that it would be better the other way, and that Tecumseh Dick, he can out spell Martin, for his life, should now turn him down, when he missed the word. "Turn about's fair play." These Democratic gentlemen ought to relieve each other, in being beaten. There should be rotation out of office, as well as into it. Decidedly, it is time that Martin and Dick should "ride and tie" a little.—*Independent.*

A PRETTY FAIR JOKE.—Gov. Tucker, of Mississippi, in his inaugural address, proposes the question whether the State would not degrade herself by accepting any proceeds from the Distribution Act of Congress! Just as if Mississippi, after having solemnly repudiated her obligations and swindled her creditors, could degrade herself by any act of hers! The idea is irresistibly ludicrous. That Gov. Tucker must be a rare crack at a toast—"a fellow of infinite jest."

RICHMOND, March 12.

THE LEGISLATURE.—In the Senate, yesterday, a motion was made to reconsider the vote rejecting the Land Fund—which, after much debate, was lost by a tie vote. So the Locos are obstinately determined that the people shall not reap the benefit of this money? This is worse than the dog in the manger. The refusal to let the people have the money does not restore the Land money to the Federal Treasury—so as to prevent an increase of the tariff—if it has any effect—it distributes among the other States the money, which belongs to Virginia. Is Virginia in a condition to be thus bountiful to others—thus unjust to herself?—*Whig.*

THE BANK RESUMPTION QUESTION.

RICHMOND, March 14.

The bill concerning the banks was discussed nearly the whole day Saturday. The question was upon striking out the 1st of January. Mr. Daniel opened the debate against striking out, and in reply to many of the arguments advanced by Mr. Holleman. He had completed before we reached the House.

He was followed by Mr. Wallace of Petersburg. Mr. W. advocated the propriety of striking out and fixing some earlier day than the 1st of January. He was for putting the banks beyond the hope of relief—to prevent any shaping of their course so as to cause an outcry for the further extension of the suspension by the next Legislature. He would prevent an extension of discounts and then a curtailment for this purpose by the banks, by requiring resumption before such an appeal could be made to the Legislature. He argued further, that if the crops only were wanting to resumption they would be available at a much earlier day than the 1st of January, and that therefore it was no argument in favor of that day.

Mr. Taylor of Norfolk, then made a long speech against striking out, in which he combated many of the arguments of Mr. Holleman, few indeed of which we have noticed.

Mr. Holleman succeeded, and made a seriatim reply to the arguments of the various gentlemen who had commented upon his first speech. Indeed his mob views had run the gauntlet of some five or six speakers. He reiterated those views, and defended them with much firmness, declaring that bank notes showed a spirit of resistance to oppression that sprung from the "most generous and independent feelings of our nature"—which he compared to the resistance to tyranny at several epochs—to the William Tell, the Jack Cade, [for whose history he misquoted Wat Tyler's] and other rebellions. He renewed the expression of his fears that even in Virginia—where mobs were so little known, and against which the sentiment of society was so decided—it would be dangerous to exasperate the public mind by the extension of bank suspensions and the continuance of the evils of a vitiated currency.

After he concluded, the question on striking out the 1st of January was decided in the affirmative—78 to 40.

Mr. Yehey then moved to fill the blank with the 1st of November. Mr. Holleman the 1st of May; and Mr. Harriett the 1st of April—after which, the House adjourned—the members availing themselves of the Sabbath day to ruminate upon what it is most prudent now to do.

RICHMOND, March 16.

THE LAND MONEY IN THE SENATE—AGAIN.

The Locos in the Senate, having succeeded in blinding the question of reception by coupling it with other extraneous matters, when the subject was first taken up; the Whigs determined to bring the question to a direct vote, and say "Money" or "no money." For this purpose, Mr. Preston, on Saturday, introduced a resolution, simply declaring that Virginia's quota of the Land money ought to be received. The Speaker ruled the resolution out of order, on the ground that the subject-matter had been before discussion. An appeal was taken, which was discussed throughout Saturday, and was resumed yesterday, when the decision was overruled—15 to 15. Mr. Woolfolk then offered an amendment similar to that which was offered on a former occasion. This fell by a tie vote—15 to 15. Various other amendments were submitted, to embarrass the resolution, and to enable certain gentlemen, whose constituents are in favor of receiving the money, to dodge the question—but they were all cut off by the previous question. Then came the rub—the naked resolution—money or no money—being the question. The resolution was rejected by a tie—ayes 15, nays 15—every Lococo, including Mr. Speaker, Mr. Newman and Mr. Thompson, voting in the negative. We annex the ayes and nays—that the country may see that the loss of the money is referable solely to Locofocoism.

AYES.—Messrs. Campbell, Thornton, Cooke, Peyton, Bondurant, Conrad, Preston, Tunstall, Lyons, Carter, Faulkner, Woodhouse, Fontaine, McIlhenny and Anderson—15.

NAYS.—Messrs. Nash, (speaker), Hunter, Carson, Willey, Atkinson, Baptist, Woolfolk, Piper, B. Aldin, Moffitt, Shinn, Mullen, Scott, Newman and Thompson—15.

The refusal to receive the Land Money will impose the necessity upon the Legislature of increasing the taxes largely, to maintain the credit of the Commonwealth. The State borrowed \$150,000 of the Banks to pay interest on the public debt, the 1st of January—which was due the 1st of March, and has not yet been refunded. It will be necessary to borrow as much more in June, for the same purpose. Where is the money to come from? The Land money would have supplied this deficiency—but that was discarded by the wise Lococo Focos. Is there any other alternative than direct taxation? We know of none. This, then, will be the first fruit of refusing the land money?—increased taxes. Embarrassed as the people now are, they will groan under the additional burdens—with not the less bitterness, because they are imposed without cause. It will require all their philosophy to digest an abstraction, which abstracts \$300,000 out of their pockets. We only desire, that they will bear in mind to whom they are indebted for these unsolicited blessings! Possibly they may find consolation in Ritchie's *State Rights*.

From the New York Express.

THE CASE OF THE CREOLE.

An attempt is making to mix up the case of the slaves of the Creole with the case of a mutiny of free white men, whom, it is contended, our Government, in particular circumstances, have refused to deliver up. It would not be difficult to prove that English Courts of Admiralty have regarded the revolt of slaves as piracy, and it, therefore, cannot but regard these mutineers as pirates; but we propose to go no further now than to point out the difference, under our laws, between a mutiny of slaves and a mutiny of free men.

Now, in the first place, while reasoning upon this subject, we must dispossess ourselves of any other idea than this, that slaves are property, under the laws of Virginia, (whence these slaves sailed) recognized as property, too, even as Representative property, by the Constitution of the United States. In this sense, then, a given amount of American property, on its way from Richmond to New Orleans, two American Ports, fell into a British Port, where this property, if not confiscated, was put out of the law, that is distinguished from all other property in being refused the benefit of the law to secure it to its owners. This fact, in the eye of Virginia, one of the States, and in the contemplation of the Federal Constitution, draws a broad line of distinction between an act thus committed by slaves, and free men, for under no circumstances could free men be guilty of property. This mutiny in the Creole, then, is no common mutiny. The slaves, it is the eye of the slave holding States, are not only malefactors, but property also.

It may be admitted, however, that even if Americans can demand the restitution of their property, Englishmen can resist it upon the ground, that the laws of nations know no such property, and that, therefore, this, in the British eye, is but mutiny and no Treaty stipulation compels a surrender of the malefactors. Thus, the British Government may be defended in their course, no matter how the American Government may look upon the act. Now, though this may be good ground of argument in a British newspaper, it is good for nothing in an American, for we live under a different law and Constitution, to which we owe obedience. We propose, however, to examine the British view of the question.

A vessel starts from one American Port for another. Force changes her course, and takes her to a British Port, where force takes advantage of its own act to convert slavery into freedom. The British Government undertakes, in justifying this, the justification of several principles involved in it.

1st. That the municipal institution of slavery in the United States, is against the law of nations,—for no matter, though the municipal law of England liberates slaves, it will not be contended, it can thus break the municipal law of another nation, unless, according to the law of nations.

2d. That this mutiny or piracy was a justifiable act, which it is neither bound to punish, or to aid in punishing.

3d. That Great Britain, in no way or form, recognizes the property of man in man; and, therefore, in her eye, such mutiny or piracy is proper as well as defensible, on account of which there can be no remuneration.

These principles, thus stated, distinguish this Creole case from all other mutinies; but in addition to all this, the British Government itself, we venture to say, will put her refusal upon the very ground that this is not mutiny, but the exercise of a right man ever has to achieve his freedom. In a common mutiny, the comity of the British Government would surrender the malefactors. If the passenger-slaves had been passenger freemen from Richmond to New Orleans, there is no manner of doubt, in case of a revolt, that the British Government would have given them up.

The principles involved in the refusal of the British Government to surrender these Creole People, are of a character to exasperate, in a high degree, the slave holding States. It is deeply to be regretted that such a bone of contention is thrown between the two nations; but as this is a national matter, we must discuss, and understand it, in all its legal details. Whatever our feelings may be, this must be looked at in a constitutional view.—The hundreds among us, who rejoice in the victorious achievement of the Creole negroes, who hail their self-emancipation with delight, are not the less bound, as good citizens, to stand by the Laws and Constitution of the country, the defence of which is the only Palladium we have for our own individual Freedom.

STEAMBOAT EXPLOSION, AND LOSS OF LIFE.

The Mobile Morning Herald of the 4th inst. says.—By the arrival of the steamer Canby, from Logan's Bluff, last evening, we have received the confirmation of the rumor brought us yesterday morning, of an explosion of the boilers of the steamer North Star, and the fatal loss of life attendant on it. The occurrence took place at about ten or twelve miles below Tuscaloosa, on her passage down, on the 25th ult. After the explosion, the boat took fire, and burned to the water's edge and sunk. Fifteen persons are said to have been killed, among whom are C. C. D. Connor, of Marengo, and Mr. Tanshill, of Tuscaloosa county, passengers; both of the Pilot, were both blown into the river, and succeeded in reaching the shore—the latter severely injured.

TREASURY NOTES.—The New York Commercial Advertiser states that Mr. Morris Ketchum, of Wall street, last spring, at the earnest entreaty of the then Secretary of the Treasury, consented to take one thousand dollars of Treasury notes, drawn payable to his order, and for which he advanced the money. Those notes, endorsed by him, were negotiated, and they are now coming in matured for payment. But although the Government affords to be dishonored, and stands in the position of a bankrupt, yet it is not so with the Government's endorser, Mr. Ketchum. He feels that his own honor requires that the notes he has endorsed should be met; and he pays them. But where is the honor of the Government in the meantime?

"THE PURSERS' BILL."—There is a bill now before Congress to abolish the ancient and objectionable method of rewarding Pursers in the Navy, and in lieu thereof, of ascertaining and fixing certain salaries for their several degrees of duty—terribly called "the Pursers' bill." The important relative position which this matter bears to the whole navy of the United States, renders the speedy success of the measure of vastly more importance than is generally understood.—*Amer. Gaz.*

From the Independent.

A PETITION.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled.

Your memorialists, residents of the State of Ohio, feeling a deep interest in the welfare and safety of the Union of these United States, have seen, with much regret, that one of the members of the Cabinet, the Secretary of the Navy, A. P. Upshur, Esq., "was at one time on open, unqualified, and boasted advocate of the dissolution of the Union"—and whereas the Hon. John M. Bots, member of Congress for Virginia, has in his place, in the House of Representatives, and in the public newspapers, under his own signature, boldly stated that the Secretary of the Navy, in a conversation with him in the most public place and manner, "did avow himself the advocate of an immediate dissolution of the Union"—and whereas the Secretary has stated, in a letter addressed to the Hon. Henry A. Wise, "that he never held or expressed such opinions," and further, that he never held a conversation on that or any other subject, in a public place or manner, with Mr. Bots—and whereas the Hon. John M. Bots has proven his charges, in the most conclusive manner, by the testimony of Mr. Philip Harrison, of Richmond, Va.; also by Messrs. C. M. Braxton and Edward W. Johnson, of Virginia—therefore, your memorialists view with alarm the danger of a high Cabinet officer holding such anti-American and revolutionary opinions, and would respectfully pray your honorable body (for the safety of this Union) to pass the severest censure of Congress upon the Secretary of the Navy for having avowed such obnoxious doctrines, and for having so dishonorably equivocated in regard thereto, and to request the President immediately to remove the Secretary of the Navy from the honorable office he now holds, and, as in duty, your petitioners will ever pray.

H. McLandblanc, T. G. Fisk, P. J. Gardner, James Johnson, E. M. Roberts, Jno. Liggitt, Jas. McClinton, Jr., D. S. Chute, James Clarke, David Thompson, James Palmer, John Welsh, James Rowe, Hiram McGowan, Robert McCommer, M. Subzbacher, Wm. McDowell, Mathias Barman, J. A. Pinto, Henry Subzbacher, C. Platten, John W. Robey, H. Sosman.

HOGAN.—We are gratified to learn from the New York Journal of Commerce that the country is fairly rid of this second McLeod. The people of Lockport seem to have been less greedy for game this time than before—partly, we trust, because they were unwilling to see the great interests of the Country put at hazard to gratify local feelings, however just they might think them; and partly perhaps, because McLeod was a very expensive customer to the Country. At any rate, Hogan was allowed to escape untested, after having been discharged by the Judge.—He seems to have been very sincere in his own wish to get off, for he started just at dusk in the direction of Niagara Falls; but as soon as night came on, he retraced his steps, and took a more direct course to the river, which he succeeded in crossing before light the next morning.

HYDROPHOBIA.—The New Orleans papers relate a distressing case of this dreadful malady, which occurred in Lafayette a week or two since. The victim, Mr. G. S. Johnson, formerly a resident of Norfolk, Virginia, was bitten by his own dog in December last, as were also two of his children. The dog was instantly killed, and nothing more was thought of the matter until the 3d inst. Upon approaching the water bucket, from which he was in the habit of drinking, Mr. Johnson became suddenly sick and giddy, and nearly fainted. The truth instantly flashed upon his mind. Telling his wife that he was a dead man, and that the dog he had killed was mad, he requested to be confined. He was fastened down upon his bed, and continued in the most excruciating agony, until the night of the 4th instant, when he expired in the most dreadful torture. Thus his wife, left with eight children, is daily and hourly in expectation of seeing two of them writhing beneath the same malady. As yet they have manifested no symptoms of the disease.

PAIXHAN GUNS.—About thirty of these formidable instruments of warfare, have lately been cast at Alger's foundry, South Boston, and are now undergoing inspection by Major Wade, of the U. S. Army, and Com. Chancery, of the navy. In the course of a few days they will be proved, at the South Boston Point, to which place a number of them are already conveyed, and a heavy cannonading may be expected. The guns are about nine feet in length, weigh 7,200 pounds each, calibre eight inches, and throw a solid shot of sixty-eight pounds.—*Boston Times.*

We have been informed that it is the intention of the Reporter of the Supreme Court of the United States to publish, forthwith the case of *Prigg and others against the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*, without waiting for the publication of the reports of the Court at the present term.

This pamphlet will contain the arguments of Mr. Nelson and Mr. Meredith, who appeared for the State of Maryland, that State having removed the case from the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to the Supreme Court of the United States, and of Mr. Johnson and Mr. Hamilton, who represented the State of Pennsylvania.

The decision of the Court, delivered by Mr. Justice Story, and the opinion of Mr. Chief Justice Taney, Mr. Justice McLean, and Mr. Justice Daniel, who agreed with the majority of the Court in its decision on the unconstitutionality of the law of Pennsylvania, but dissented on other points, will be given.

It will be recollected that the Court held in this case that all the laws of the States on the subject of fugitive slaves are void, and that the rights of the owner of a fugitive slave to arrest him in any State to which he may have fled or escaped, cannot be interfered with by the legislation of any State of the Union.—*Nat. Intell.*

The Quebec Gazette tells the ads made about the petition presented by Mr. Adams for a dissolution of the Union. "It leaves it to be inferred that there is a greater danger of that event than is generally believed to exist." The dissolution of the Union is an event which has been predicted from the first; but so time advances the probability of such a catastrophe recedes. Men sometimes, in a fit of spleen and exaltation, believe they cannot have any thing in their own way, speak lightly of the future, but the future does not mean so. Even abolitionists and Nullifiers would, if need be, stand shoulder to shoulder in defence of our glorious Union.—*N. Y. Jour. Com.*